

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OIC-02 DHA-02 ORM-02 /081 W

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R 070800Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3407

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS ALSO FOR NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SG, WA

SUBJ: DAKAR NAMIBIA CONFERENCE OPENS

REF: DAKAR 7193, DAKAR A-118, DAKAR A-98

1. SUMMARY: DAKAR CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENED JAN 5. PRESIDENT SENGHOR ADDRESSED OEPNING SESSION; PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA DID NOT RPT NOT ATTEND, BUT SENT FONMIN BANDA. OPENING PLENARY CONSISTED OF LARGELY ROUTINE SPEECHES BY LEADING ATTENDEES INCLUDING UNESCO SEC GEN MBOW, SWAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA, AND PRESIDENT KAMANA OF UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA. GENERAL TONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLENARY WAS MODERATE. AT PRESS CONFERENCE, NUJOMA REFUSED TO

DECLARE SWAPO RECOGNITION OF MPLA, AND SAID SWAPO AND ALLIES INTEND TO PRESS FOR UNSC CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA ON GROUNDS THAT "AAGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA LAUNCHED FROM TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA" CONSTITUTES THREAT TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. CONFERENCE WORK PROCEEDING UNDER AEGIS OF TWO WORKING COMMITTEES. PLENARY SESSION WILL BE RESUMED JAN 8 TO ADOPT DAKAR DECLARATION ON NAMIBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. DAKAR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS, OPENED JAN 5. CONFERENCE BEING DIRECTED BY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF UN NAMIBIA COMMISSIONER MACBRIDE, SENEGALESE SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT KEBE MBAYE AND HEADS OF THREE SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS. CONFERENCE AIMS ARE TO THROW LIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NAMIBIA AND LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR NAMIBIAN LIBERATION. OVER 300 DELEGATES ARE ATTENDING, REPRESENTING WIDE VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS, CHURCHES, AND LIVERATION MOVEMENTS. ALTHOUGH NATIONAL DELEGATIONS WERE NOT SEATED AS SUCH, MANY COUNTRIES SENT OBSERVERS WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED ON FIRST DAY. CALIBER OF JURISTS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL LUMINARIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS, IS HIGH. PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA COULD NOT ATTEND AS SCHEDULED, BUT WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER. OEPNING SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY AMERICAN CODEL CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES C. DIGGS AND STAFF ADVISOR HERSCHELLE CHALLENGOR. ALSO PRESENT WERE ROBERT BOETTCHER, REPRESENTING CONGRESSMAN FRASER, AND ASSISTANT STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISOR CHARLES RUNYON. CONFERENCE WAS ADDRESSED BY, INTER ALIA, PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, DIRECTOR GENERAL MBOW OF UNESCO, ASSISTANT UN SECRETARY GENERAL DJERMAKOYE, SWAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA, UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA PRESIDENT D. W. KAMANA (OF ZAMBIA) AND ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BANDA.

3. SENGHOR DEVOTED ADDRESS TO SCHOLARLY REVIEW OF HISTORY OF NAMBIA PROBLEM. SENGHOR SAID SENEGAL WAS STIL AWAITING REPLY TO ITS YEAR-OLD PROPOSAL TO SEND DELEGATION OF JURISTS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA (ON CONDITION THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE LIBERATED). HE DECLARED "WE ARE MEN OF DIALOGUE," BUT INSISTED HE HAD NEVER IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM SOUGHT DIALOGUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN SENEGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA; INSTEAD HE SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL DISCUSSION WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA. SENGHOR NOTED THAT 35TH RATIFICATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS HAD BEEN DEPOSITED DEC 23, 1975 AND COVENANT WILL THUS COME INTO FORCE MARCH 23, 1976. HE EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR LEGITIMACY OF UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA DECREE NO 1 CONCERNING MINERAL RESOURCES. CALLING ON "EUROPEAN AND OTHER NATIONS" TO SUPPORT LUSAKA-

BASED INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA, HE PROPOSED ANNUAL "WEEK OF
SOLIDARITY WITH NAMIBIAN PEOPLE."

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4. NUJOMA OF SWAPO ARGUED THAT REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION LEAVES
NAMIBIAN PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DESCRIBED MASS
POLITICAL MOBILIZATION AND GUERILLA RESISTANCE TACTICS OF
SWAPO'S ARMED STRUGGLE. HE ASSERTED THAT MAJORITY OF NAMIBIANS
SAW SWAPO AS THE ONE VISIBLE, ORGANIZATIONAL EXPRESSION OF
THEIR ASPIRATIONS. HE CALLED ON CONFERENCE TO CONDEMN
PRETORIA'S USE OF NAMIBIA AS "SPRINGBOARD" TO LAUNCH AGGRESSIVE
INVASION OF ANGOLA." HE SAID SOUTH AFRICANS WERE USING MILITARY
BASE AT GROOTFONTEIN TO TRAIN "ANGOLAN REACTIONARIES,
MERCENARIES AND PORTUGUESE FASCISTS." HE DENOUNCED "AGGRESSIVE

MILITARY BUILD-UP ALONG NAMIBIAN-ANGOLAN BORDER" AND ALLEGED
PRETORIA PLANNING TO ANNEX AREA OF 60-70 KM INTO ANGOLA.
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NUJOMA SAID SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS WERE CLEAR THREAT TO
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. HE LISTED SIX BASIC PRINCIPLES
AND PRE-CONDITIONS WHICH SOUTH AFRICANS MUST ACCEPT BEFORE ANY
TALKS: PUBLIC STATEMENT OF NAMIBIAN RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE;
INVIOABILITY OF NAMIBIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY;
RECOGNITION OF SWAPO AS ONLY AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF
NAMIBIAN PEOPLE; RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS;
RETURN OF EXILES WITH VICTIMIZATION; SOUTH AFRICAN COMMITMENT
TO WITHDRAW POLICE AND TROOPS. UNLESS THESE MET ARMED STRUGGLE
WOULD CONTINUE.

5. REMAINDER OF OPENING SPEECHES AMOUNTED TO 1) LAVISH PRAISE
OF SENEGAL FOR HOLDING CONFERENCE, 2) GENERAL DEPLORING OF
SITUATION IN NAMIBIA, 3) OCCASIONAL DENUNCIATION OF SOUTH
AFRICAN "AGGRESSION" IN ANGOLA AND NON-SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OF
COUNTRIES ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICA IN "ILLEGAL
OCCUPATION" OF NAMIBIA AND "AGGRESSION" IN ANGOLA, AND 4) SELF-
CONGRATULATION ON AID TO NAMIBIA PROVIDED BY EACH SPEAKER'S
ORGANIZATION.

6. NUJOMA HELD PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING JAN 5 PLENARY
SESSION AT WHICH HE: SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED SUPPORT OF GREAT
BRITAIN, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, AND US FOR SOUTH AFRICAN
OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA; REITERATED PLAN TO PRESS FOR CONDEMNATION
OF SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA AS THREAT TO WORLD
PEACE AND SECURITY; AND REFUSED TO DECLARE EXCLUSIVE SWAPO
SUPPORT FOR MPLA.

7. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS ALSO HELD JAN 5 PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAKAR
WHICH EMPHASIZED ADDED CURRENT SIGNIFICANCE OF NAMIBIA IN VIEW
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION ACROSS BORDER INTO ANGOLA. AS
REPORTED DAKAR 0096, REP DIGGS ALSO DISCUSSED BLACK CAUCUS'S
VIGOROUS OPPOSITION TO THE INTERVENTION OF US AND OTHER NON-OAU
MEMBERS IN ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT: GENERAL TONE IN OPENING PLENARY WAS
MODERATE. GOS APPEARS SATISFIED THAT ITS HOSTING OF CONFERENCE
WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO BOLSTER ITS THIRD-WORLD, ANTI-APARTHEID
CREDENTIALS. WITH OPENING PLENARY PRESIDED OVER BY SENGHOR,
INITIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY SENEGALESE UNESCO DIRECTOR MBOW
AND PRESIDENCY OF CONFERENCE IN HANDS OF SENEGALESE JURIST KEBE
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MBAYE (WHO IS VICE-PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS), SENEGAL IS IMPRESSIVELY DEMONSTRATING PROMINENT ROLE IT IS TAKING IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AND ITS SUPPORT FOR SWAPO, WHOSE WEST AFRICAN MISSION IS LOCATED IN DAKAR. THROUGH CONSTANT REITERATION, SENEGALESE SPEAKERS ARE ALSO MAKING SURE THAT REFERENCE TO "DAKAR CONFERENCE" AND "DAKAR DECLARATION" BECOME LASTING LEGACY OF GATHERING. EMBASSY WILL CABLE FINAL CONFERENCE DECLARATION AND POUCH SPEECHES AND OTHER CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS.
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